

Message Text

SECRET

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22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 DODE-00

/077 W

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R 251059Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3470

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T WARSAW 5967

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR KN KS UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON DMZ INCIDENT

1. SOVIET FIRST SECRETARY IANIS IAOUNDZEMS TOLD AN EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER YESTERDAY THAT HE "PERSONALLY BELIEVED" THE AUGUST 18 ATTACK IN THE DMZ WAS A DELIBERATE PROVOCATION BY THE NORTH KOREANS. IAOUNDZEMS SAID HE BELIEVED THE NORTH KOREANS TIMED THE INCIDENT TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE NONALIGNED NATIONS CONFERENCE TO THE SIZEABLE AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA.

2. IAOUNDZEMS SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE NORTH KOREANS HAD WANTED TO "MOVE THE SITUATION TO A MILITARY CRISIS." HE THOUGHT THE NORTH KOREANS FELT SUCH AN INCIDENT INVOLVING U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL MIGHT FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE "NORTH KOREAN-AMERICAN ASPECT OF THE CONFRONTATION IN KOREA," THUS DOWNPLAYING THE NORTH-SOUTH KOREAN CLASH.

3. COMMENT: AS COMPARED TO SOME WELL-STRUCTURED BUT OTHERWISE STANDARD VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION WHICH HE EXPRESSED IN THIS SAME CONVERSATION, IAOUNDZEMS SEEMED INDECISIVE WHEN DISCUSSING THIS DMZ INCIDENT. HIS REMARKS MAY THEREFORE INDEED

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BE ONLY HIS PERSONAL VIEWS.

DAVIES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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